

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Gentner (U.S. Pat. No. 5,283,784). The Examiner has cited Gentner for allegedly teaching a method of echo reduction by attenuating communication signals at the start of transmission to reduce the amplitudes of echo signals.

In order to more fully describe the present invention, the Examiner will notice that independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended, and dependent claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled and substantially included in the independent claims so as to better define the ability to of the invention enable a discreet, timed phase of echo reduction. Further support for this defined aspect of the invention may be found on page 1, paragraph 0005, page 3, paragraph 0010, and page 7, paragraph 0024 of the specification. As such, no new matter has been added.


In response to the above referenced rejection, the applicant wishes to respectfully posit that the Gentner patent does not teach the present invention for at least several of the following reasons. First, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is simply not directed to the Gentner method of echo canceller error compensation. Succinctly put, the present invention does not relate whatsoever to monitoring echo canceller errors. Genter is merely directed to an error based process of correcting for errors stemming from the operation of an echo canceller. This is done on an echo canceller during the course of its operation within a telephone connection so as to help mask the shortcomings of the nonlinear processor (a/k/a center clipper) of an echo canceller. By direct contrast, the present invention is related to the provision of a *time based* process of adding loss to a telephone connection at the beginning of a call for the purpose of making echoes less perceptible during that initial period when the network echo canceller has not successfully brought the echo under control. Because Gentner is focused on sampling error during the operation of an echo canceller, it is merely concerned with the faulty operation of canceller *without regard* to time constraints. As can be appreciated, the present invention is directed to the aspect of reducing echo before any echo canceller even becomes operative, e.g., the period of

time occurring at the very beginning of a connection being established, *before* echo cancellers are able to begin functioning. Hence, the present invention is *not* concerned with echo canceller error *at all*.

Thus, the undersigned maintains that the Gentner patent actually teaches *away* from the present invention by requiring the use of error, and by not addressing the reduction of echo before the operation of an echo canceller. Accordingly, it is respectfully maintained that the present invention is clearly distinguishable over the Gentner teachings, and as such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, as well as a Notice of Allowance are hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues that may be best resolved by telephone communication, he is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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